

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for communicating capabilities supported by a device to at least one other
5 device comprising the step of:

a) providing a bit stream by the device, wherein at least one bit in the bit stream
represents a feature supported by the device.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

10 b) identifying mutually supported features between the device and the at least one
other device.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein each bit in the bit stream has a value.

15 4. The method of claim 3, wherein each bit corresponds to a feature.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein a feature is supported if the corresponding bit value
is a one (1).

20 6. The method of claim 5, wherein a feature is not supported if the corresponding bit
value is a zero (0).

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the identifying step (b) includes:

(b1) comparing the bit stream with another bit stream received from the at

least one other device.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the comparing step (b1) includes performing a logical AND operation between the bit streams.

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9. A computer readable medium containing program instructions for communicating features supported by a device to at least one other device, the program instructions for:

a) providing a bit stream by the device, wherein at least one bit in the bit stream represents a feature supported by the device.

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10. The computer readable medium of claim 9 further comprising:

b) identifying mutually supported features between the device and the at least one other device.

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11. The computer readable medium of claim 9, wherein each bit in the bit stream has a value.

12. The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein each bit corresponds to a feature.

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13. The computer readable medium of claim 12, wherein a feature is supported if the corresponding bit value is a one (1).

14. The computer readable medium of claim 13, wherein a feature is not supported if the corresponding bit value is a zero (0).

15. The computer readable medium of claim 14, wherein the identifying instruction (b) includes:

(b1) comparing the bit stream with another bit stream received from the at least one other device.

16. The method of claim 7, wherein the comparing instruction (b1) includes performing a logical AND operation between the bit streams.

17. A method for establishing a communication session between at least two devices comprising the steps of:

- a) initiating communication between a first device and a second device;
- b) exchanging a bit stream associated with the first device and a bit stream associated with the second device; and
- c) identifying mutually supported features.

18. The method of claim 17 further comprising:

- d) utilizing at least one of the mutually supported features during the session.

19. The method of claim 17, wherein at least one bit in the bit stream represents a feature supported by the device associated with the bit stream.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein each bit in the bit stream has a value.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein each bit corresponds to a feature.

5 22. The method of claim 21, wherein a feature is supported if the corresponding bit value is a one (1).

23. The method of claim 22, wherein a feature is not supported if the corresponding bit value is a zero (0).

10 24. The method of claim 23, wherein the identifying step (c) includes:

 (c1) comparing the bit streams associated with the first and second devices.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein the comparing step (c1) includes performing a
15 logical AND operation between the bit streams associated with the first and second devices.

26. The method of claim 17, wherein the first device is a client and the second device is a
server.

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